(c) In view of persistent losses suffered in all gardens including the gardens in Darjeeling District owned by TTCI Ltd., it has been decided to dispose of these gardens through outright sale. Outstanding liabilities on account of salaries/wages of the workers are proposed to be met by TTCI Ltd. from out of the sale proceeds. Though attempts are being made to complete the sale expeditiously, there has been difficulty in completing the sale process on account of court cases. All possible steps have been taken to expedite the sale. In the meanwhile, the company has been asked to continue production and manufacturing activities to the extent feasible to ensure payment of current dues.

Export of Orchid Flowers

1941. SHRI K. PRADHANI :- Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a good number of orchid flowers cultivated in Sikkim and Darjeeling and exported abroad;

(b) if so, the quantum of orchid flowers exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the furhter steps taken by the Government to boost the export of orchid flowers from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign exchange earned from export of out flowers including orchid flowers during the period 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April, 95 to Jan, 96) is as follows :

Value : Rs. in crores

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
			(April, 95 to Jan, 96)
Cut Flowers and Flower buds*	11.92	22.57	35.23

The item "Orchid Flowers" is not separately specified for statistical purposes in the international Trade Classification (Harmonised System) Code and as such it is not possible to furnish the information on export of this item

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of export of cut flowers and flower buds are available in the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India Published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament House Library.

*No unit of quantity is assigned to export of cut flowers.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of floriculture products including orchid flowers from India, inter-alia, include :-

(i) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as refrigerated/insulated vans and setting up of pre-cooling/cold storage units:

(ii) establishing five walk-in-type cold storages at airports for export consignments awaiting clearance;

(iii) Streamlining and simplification of plant quarantine procedures for expenditious clearance of cargo;

(iv) Concessional customs duty on specified goods required for Green Houses;

(v) Making available the benefits of duty free imports under the export Oriented Units/ Export Processing Zones Schemes to units engaged in floriculture and permitting sale of 50% of their production in the Domestic Tariff Area;

(vi) Implementation of a UNDP assisted Project on Floriculture for enhancing production and exports of cut flowers. Some of the activities to be undertaken in this project include advising entrepreneurs on production of flowers, preparation of crop manuals, undertaking market surveys and providing market information; and

(vii) Participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

Revision of Wagee in Ineurance Sector

1942. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI MULIAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have revised the wages of the Insurance officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which the revised wages have been made effective to the staff of Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation;

(c) the details of the revision made in their wage packages, catetgory-wise;

(d) the status of the pension shceme introduced for the officials of the Insurance sector; and

(e) the details of the pending demands of the employees and the reaction of the Government on each of them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINSITER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) :

(a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The category-wise details of the major elements of the wage revision are given in the attached statement;

(d) The pension scheme has been implemented in the insurance industry with effect from 1.11.93. The scheme also covers those employees who have retired between 1.1.86 and 1.11.93, on refund of the employer's contribution to the PF with interest.

(e) Some of the Class III and Class IV employees have been demanding higher neutralisation while fixing the revised pay scales and a fitment increment. These demands could not be accepted by the Government in view of the need to kepp the overall increase in the wage bill within a reasonable limit and to maintain the parity between the banking and insurance industries.

STATEMENT

Details of Wage Revision in the Insurance Industry

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Pre-Revised Pay Scales (Rs.)	Revised Pay Scales (Rs.)	Date of effect
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Zonal Manager (Selection) Grade) in LIC and General Manager in GIC.	6400-7000	12650-14000	1.8.1992
2.	Zonal Manager (Ordinary Grade) in LIC and AGM in GIC	5950-6500	11450-12650	-do-
3.	Deputy Zonal Manager in LIC and Dy. Manager in GIC	5350-5950	10450-11450	-do-
4.	Divisional Manager in LIC - Dy. Manager in GIC	4520-5350	8970-10450	1.8.1992
5.	ADM in LIC & Assistant Manager in GIC	3660-5050	7360-9950	-do-
6.	Branch Manager in LIC and A.O. in GIC	2940-4520	5980-8970	-do-
7.	ABM in LIC & AAO in GIC	2100-4260	4250-8510	-do-
8.	Dev. Officer Gr. I in GIC	1430-3880	2815-7520	1.4.95
9.	Dev. Officer in LIC	1350-3880	2660-7520	-do-
10.	Dev. Officer Gr. II in GIC	1050-1410	2050-2790	-do-
11.	Superintendent in LIC & GIC	1910-3700	3725-7160	1.8.92
12.	Higher Grade Assistant in LIC	1470-3460	2880-6700	-do-
13.	Senior Assistant and Stenographer in GIC	1390-3460	2725-6700	-do-
14.	Section Head in LIC	1270-3220	2510-6240	-do-
15.	Stenographer in LIC	1240-3090	2425-5960	-do-
16.	Assistant in LIC and GIC	1000-2860	1950-5500	-do-
17.	Record Clerk in LIC/GIC	930-2010	1830-3990	-do-
18.	Driver in LIC and GIC	930-1810	1830-3590	-do-
19.	Sepoy in LIC	815-1520	1600-3020	-do-
20.	Other Subordinate staff in GIC	815-1520	1600-3220	-do-
21.	Sweeper in LIC	785-1465	1540-2900	-do-

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

Pre-Revised			Revised		
1			2		
(i)	Upto Rs. 2500/-	0.67% of Basic Pay;	i)	Upto Rs. 4800	0.35% of Basic Pay
(ii)	Rs. 2501 to Rs. 4000	0.67% of Rs. 2500 plus 0.55% of Basic Pay in excess of Rs. 2500	ii)	Rs. 4800 to Rs. 7700	0.35% of Rs. 4800 plus 0.29% of basic pay in excess of
(iii)	Rs. 4001/- to Rs. 4260	0.67% of Rs. 2500 plus 0.55% of difference between Rs. 4000 and Rs. 2500 plus 0.33% of Basic Pay in excess of Rs. 4000.	iii)	Rs. 7700 to Rs. 8200	0.35% of Rs. 4800/- plus 0.29% of difference between Rs. 7700 and Rs. 4800 plus 0.17% of basic pay in excess of Rs. 7700.
(iv)	Rs. 4261/- and above	0.67% of Rs. 2500 plus 0.55% of difference between Rs. 4000 and Rs. 2500 plus 0.33% of difference between Rs. 4260 and Rs. 4000 plus 0.17% of basic pay in excess of Rs. 4260	iii)	Rs. 8201 and above	0.35% of Rs. 4800/- plus 0.29% of difference between Rs. 7700 and Rs. 4800 plus 0.17% of difference between Rs. 8200 and Rs. 7700 plus 0.29% of basic pay in excess of Rs. 8200

The DA increase has been revised with effect from 1.4.1993 for Class I Officers and Development Officers and from 1.8.1992 for class III and IV employees.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE

CLASS I OFFICERS - FROM 1.8.1992

12.5% of the basic subject to a maximum of Rs. 500	12.5% of the Basic Subject to a maximum of Rs. 875/-

DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS - FROM 1.4.1993

12.5% of the basic pay upto Rs. 3000 and @ 10% of the Basic Pay which is in excess of Rs. 3000/- subject to a maximum of Rs. 425/-	12.5% of the Basic pay upto Rs. 5900 and @ 10% of the Basic Pay which is in excess of Rs. 5900/-

CLASS III AND IV EMPLOYEES - FROM 1.8.1992

10% of the Pay	i) Cities with population exceeding 12 lakhs	12%
	ii) Any other places	10%

C.C.A.

CLASS I OFFICERS - FROM 1.8.1993

i)	Cities with population exceeding 12 lakhs	7% of Basic Pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 220/-	4.5 % of the basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 335/- per month.
ii)	Other Cities	4% of Basic Pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 135/-	3.5% of the basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 230/- per month

1		2
	DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS - FROM 1.8.1993	
i) Cities with population exceeding 12 lakhs	7% of Basic Pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 165/-	4.5 % of the basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 220/- per month.
ii) Other Cities	4% of Basic Pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 110/-	3.5% of the basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 165/- per month
	CLASS III & IV EMPLOYEES - FROM 1.8.1993	
i) Cities with population exceeding 12 lakhs	7% of Basic Pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150/-	4.5 % of the basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 100/- and a maximum of Rs. 200/- per month.
ii) Other Cities	4% of Basic Pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 30 for Class IV and Rs. 45/- for class III and a maximum of Rs. 100	3.5% of the basic pay subject to a mimimum of Rs. 75/- and maximum of Rs. 150/-

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

Nil	Rs. 100/- per month to all employees with effect from 1.8.1994

COMPUTER INCREMENT

Computer Increment has been allowed to all the Officers and Employees with effect from 1.11.1993

HILL ALLOWANCE

CLASS I OFFICERS - FROM 1.8.1992

Posting at places situated at a height of 1500 metres and above	7% of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 180/-	4% of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 180/-
Posting at places situated at a height of less than 1500 metres	5% of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150/-	3% of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150/-

DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS - FROM 1.4.1995

Posting at places situated at a height of 1500 metres and above	7% of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150/-	4% of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150/-
Posting at places situated at a height of less than 1500 metres	5% of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 125/-	3% of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 125/-

MEDICLAIM

	Cash	**Cash**
Employees having service upto 5 years Employees having more than 5 years service	Rs. 350/- Rs. 500/-	Rs. 870/- Rs. 1070/-

HOSPITALISATION

Prior to the revision the mediclaim premium was being paid by employees and the employer company in the ratio of 1:2.. After the revision the ratio has been changed to 1:3 reducing the employee's share to 25%.